

Applicant : Gerhard Brendel  
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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

1-10. (previously canceled)

11. (currently amended) ~~A method Method~~ for the painting of substrates with at least one coating material comprising the steps of:

providing at least one organic component; ~~and~~

applying ~~the~~ a coating material to ~~the~~ a substrate by atomization and spraying; ~~and~~

atomizing ~~wherein~~ the coating material is ~~atomized by~~ using a water vapor ~~and wherein~~

such that the coating material is a water-based paint or an essentially solvent-free hot melt paint synthetically produced in which water serves as the solvent or dispersing agent.

12. (previously canceled)

13. (currently amended) ~~A method Method~~ in accordance with claim 11, wherein the coating material is applied as primer, top coat, filler or clearcoat.

14. (currently amended) ~~A method Method~~ in accordance with claim 11, wherein the coating material, by flowing through a nozzle arrangement, is atomized with the water vapor acting as auxiliary gas and is sprayed onto the substrate.

15. (currently amended) ~~A method Method~~ in accordance with claim 11, wherein the water vapor flows out of a nozzle arrangement, with or adjacent to the coating material, with the water vapor of the nozzle arrangement being fed at a pressure of 0.5 to 10 bar.

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16. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ in accordance with claim 11, wherein metals, plastics or wood materials are used as the substrate.

17-20. (previously cancelled)

21. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ in accordance with claim 11, further including atomizing and spraying the coating material onto the substrate with at least one nozzle arrangement, and providing and feeding the coating material to the nozzle arrangement with at least a first supply device, and preparing and feeding an auxiliary gas to the nozzle arrangement for atomizing the coating material with at least a second supply device, wherein the second supply device comprises a water-vapor generator.

22. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ in accordance with claim 21, wherein the second supply device and/or a feed line to the nozzle arrangement comprises a pressure-increasing or compression device, with which the water vapor can be brought to operating pressure in the range of 0.5 to 10 bar.

23. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ in accordance with claim 22, wherein the pressure-increasing device is formed by a reduction in cross section of a feed line.

24. (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ in accordance with claim 21, wherein the second supply device has a heating device and/or a pressure-increasing device for converting nearly all of the water into the vapor phase.